

MINUTES
MFRC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DNRC Conference Room, Missoula, MT.
Nov. 21, 2008 © 2p-4p

PRESENT:

SC Members: Brian Kahn, Gordy Sanders, Chelsea Pennick, Marnie Criley, Orville Daniels, Steve Kratville, Dave Bull (phone), Debbie Austin, & Dale Harris.

Staff: Julia Altemus, Melissa Hayes, Marci Giblin

::Approval of Minutes::

Motion by Dale, second by Orville – approved.

::Financial Report::

Ask Marci about the 2009 budget – and if this report reflects the new expenses.

Need to more accurately capture the times and amounts being contributed. How do we accurately reflect the work done by Julia, Beverly Dupree, or Melissa, who are paid. As well as accurately reflecting the FS leadership on local committees.

::FRC Updates::

-Lolo FRC-

It has been 13 months since this committee began, so we went around the room asking everyone how they felt about the effort. All of the comments were positive – that communication, projects, trust, etc. has all grown and changed over this time. The most pessimistic comment was that in doing these projects, the devil will be in the details. But, for the most part, everything was working out, with the recognition that this was still a beginning effort.

Consider a more rigorous annual review process to gauge how things are progressing and how people are feeling.

South Fork of Fish Project – discussed the NEPA process. There will be a presentation at the next meeting on NEPA & ESA.

Issue: though the FS & WWG are working side-by-side, they are not working together, and when they did come together it was more of a collision. The WWG came up with input, but did not realize by that time, the FS had finished analysis. So, the groups need to work more closely, and the FS needs to be a full member at the table.

Cedar Thom – still up in the air. Only about one LRC member come to meetings and it is usually a different person each time.

EWG – projects in Seeley are going well and moving ahead.

Might be beneficial to have a working group for each ranger district – that way you are recognizing the different cultures/landscapes of each community and working within everyone's capacity to be involved.

Executive Committee is meeting on Wed. to discuss Jake Kraelick as a member.

-Bitterroot FRC-

The group met last Monday and said goodbye to Cameron. There was a genuine feeling that his place was going to be hard to fill. There was a discussion that Jake Kraelick could possibly fill his spot on both the BRC & LRC. Bob Clark is also an option and had an interest.

Ginny & Dave feel it may be more beneficial to pose replacement names to the SC and they can make suggestions – but this idea has not yet been posed to the BRC, though they agreed on having the SC help with the decision.

Having the SC weigh in would allow them to keep track of changes within the group as well as take any personal feelings out of the decision process. So, as a process, maybe the SC could pose names and the BRC could pick who they think would be a good fit.

SC – gave a thumbs up to Bob and Jake as nominees for the BRC.

ACTION: make contact with Jake and Bob and then pass on to Ginny to follow up.

2 Projects:

Willow Creek (part of Willow Gurd) – is a smaller area they are focusing on and is getting down to the details now of road location and prescription.

Darby Lumber Lands – is being assessed.

The culture of this group is one of going in, getting it done and moving on. So, they are seeing the “light at the end of the tunnel” at this point. Their idea is that these projects would serve as a template for the FS to use in the future, and unless there are any other special projects, the group is ready to be done in April.

But, it is important to keep the effort going. Dave and other rangers are at every meeting, so it is important to come up with a strategy that will want them to stay on and keep working.

Next BRC Meeting: Dec. 15 – 6pm – Bitterroot River Inn.

-Lincoln FRC-

Their 2nd meeting was Thursday and about half of the members came. Amber is very engaged and the group is ready to go.

There is a proposed site field trip on Dec. 11.

There is a Jan. deadline to get a project going, and Tom T. will make sure it is funded. There are no projects in the pipeline, but once one is picked, it will be a go.

Jim Paris said that he can live with the Principles.

Al Christopherson & Scott Brennan were at the meeting. Scott discussed the grid systems, and whomever has a project in mind will look at it through the grid.

There is some concern about the balance of the group. Becky Garland is the only "environmentalist" and there are not any local environmentalists. The group threw out some names and may add someone. Overall, the energy is positive.

The group also discussed co-chairs. KD Feedback was mentioned and Gabe Furshong was also nominated. If he does not do it, maybe Scott or Becky would?

Logistics of the group: What about people who have not shown up to a meeting that were invited or have not responded to the letter?

Who will take notes and coordinate meeting dates and locations, etc.?

::2009 Budget Discussion:: MFRC Coordinator position

The e-mail discussion with the \$17,500 was more of a placeholder figure than a concrete number.

The projected expenses each month do, kind of, reflect the changes made to the contracts, though there are additional facilitation costs that sometimes come up, but are not known about at the time.

Need to better capture
DNRC amounts, FS contributions and NGO contributions.

There should also be a better break-down of the volunteer hours – to reflect those hours that people are being paid and those hours that are purely volunteer.

ACTION: Marci and Steve will meet to figure out the correct way to report the numbers so that everything is being more accurately reflected in the financial report.

::Charter::

Reflects changes made at the Full MFRC meeting as well as changes made by Julia Riber.

Change: Employees of the Federal Government to US Forest Service Employees.

Communications Section Change:

*Media communications are sometimes more pressing and there may not be time to gain consensus. Add "whenever possible" to the end of either 1. or 4. Should not have "group consensus" because it would not happen in time.

But there should be thought into how media outreach would work. The SC is a good place to discuss media for the MFRC and each FRC can determine their own method of outreach, but how does it work when an issue overlaps to multiple groups?

There could be cross-communication through all of the chairs.

Change: Duties of the co-chairs duplicates with duties of the SC (pg. 3).

Should language about the interface with the FS be in front under purpose?

::Annual Report::

Printing costs from Chelsea –

B&W

200 - \$3.20 ea.

300 - \$2.30 ea.

All Color

200 - \$6.27 ea.

500 - \$2.90 ea.

Budget for printing - \$1500 – whatever we can get for that amount, but would like more than 200 copies.

::Other::

The SC decided that Julia A. will remain a full member of the MFRC.

Dale's Chart (see attached)

How fast are we growing and how are we going to manage it all?

Right now Julia, Melissa, Chelsea, Brian and Ginny manage everything on the chart.

What we have created is amazing, but we need to manage what we are doing to keep it going. The NGO portion has not been fully developed, so there is opportunity there.

Strategy Committee – Dale (chair), Gordy & Orville will get together to talk about how to manage all of these efforts.

Reminders:

Respect cultures

Keep Principles

Growing too fast

Don't want to dilute success

Site-Specific

Consider optics

Look at opportunities.